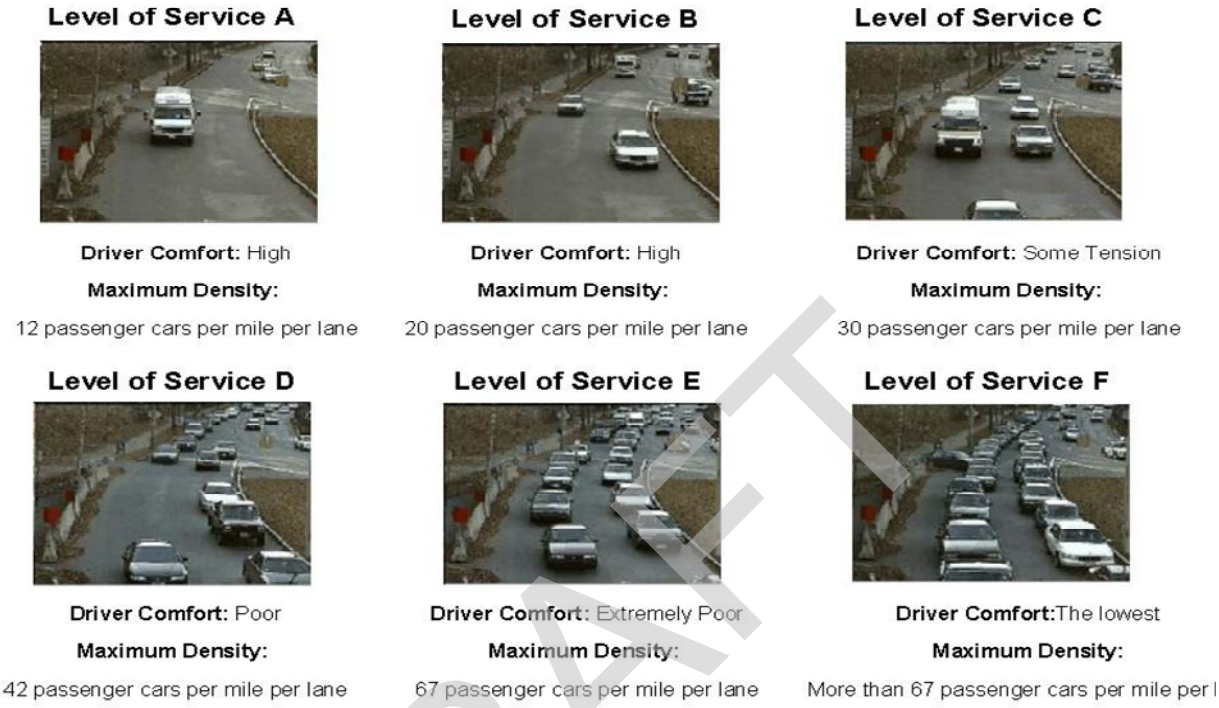
Following is a visual representation of typical levels of service for a roadway:

Figure 6 Level of Service



In our planning practices, the Level of Service (LOS) is typically represented by using the capacity of a roadway compared against the actual volume that is on the roadway. There are two types of capacities that should be understood:

Design/policy capacity & ultimate capacity

The ***design/policy capacity is the operational level at which you would like your facilities to operate***. This is generally a policy decision or based on expectations of the local area. NCDOT typically designs for a LOS C/D capacity when new roads are constructed or improved by widening. However, since this is a policy decision, the actual "number" for this capacity can vary widely between areas based on their own desires for transportation. It is recommended that the LOS D value be used as a guide to determine what facilities need improving in an area.